

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 and 23-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 19 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 10-21, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertsch et al. (hereinafter "Bertsch"), U.S. Patent No. 6,357,460, in view of Meret, Great Britain Patent No. 2 199 734. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a first nozzle rotatably provided proximate to the first rack and unddetachably and rotatably coupled to the fixed central piece, wherein the first nozzle comprises first and second nozzle sections each of which is independently coupled to the fixed central piece so as to be rotatable about a horizontal axis with respect to the fixed central piece and sprays a washing fluid toward a first rack direction or toward a second rack direction. Independent claim 19 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a closed end and an open end, wherein the open end of the first and second nozzle sections is unddetachably and independently coupled to the first and second openings of the fixed central piece so as to be rotatable with respect thereto, and wherein, while coupled to the fixed central piece, the first and second nozzle sections are rotatable about a horizontal axis thereof while the fixed central piece remains stationary so as to adjust a position of the first surfaces of the first

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and second nozzle sections and the plurality of holes therein. Bertsch and Meret, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest such features, or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1 and 19.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 19 over Bertsch and Meret should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-6, 10-18, 20-21, and 23-26 are allowable over Bertsch and Meret at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 19, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertsch and Meret, in view of Payzant, U.S. Patent No. 5,725,002. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 7-9 are allowable over Bertsch and Meret at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Payzant fails to overcome the deficiencies of Bertsch and Meret, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching use of a pair of O-rings to connect surfaces between a fixed central piece and first and second nozzles. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 7-9 over Bertsch, Meret, and Payzant should be withdrawn.

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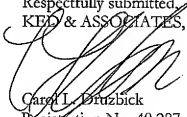
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KEO & ASSOCIATES, LLP



Carol L. Druzbeck
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 CLD:djg

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610